



Car Safety Seats: Snug as a Bug in a Rug...

Child passenger safety should be a big concern for every driver. Traffic accidents are still the leading cause of death to children! Each year thousands of children are killed or injured in car crashes. You can prevent this from happening by using safety seats and seat belts properly on every car trip you take.

What's a person to do?

- **ALL KIDS UNDER 13 SHOULD RIDE IN THE BACK SEATS!** If no back seat, move the front seat back as far as possible, turn off the airbag and use the right child safety seat.
- Infants under 1 year of age AND less than 20 lbs should be in rear-facing car safety seats.
- Make every car safety seat snug to the vehicle, so it cannot move more than 1 inch in any direction.
- Make all harness straps snug, so no more than your 2 fingers fit between the straps and child.
- In cold weather, do not strap your child in their car safety seat wearing a coat. This makes straps too loose. Put the coat over the child after they are strapped into their car safety seat.
- Check that seats and straps are snug at least once a month.
- Always read and follow manufacturers' instructions.

PROPER CHILD SAFETY SEAT USE

BUCKLE EVERYONE: TIGHT IS RIGHT—SEAT TO AUTO/KIDS TO SEATS

	Infant Seats	Child Seats	Booster Seats
WEIGHT/ HEIGHT	Birth to at least 1 year and at least 20 lbs.	Over 1 year and over 20 lbs.	4 to 8 years & Over 40 lbs. Until 4'9" or 57" tall.
TYPE OF SAFETY SEAT	Infant-only OR Rear-facing Convertible	Forward-facing Convertible	Belt-positioning Booster
SEAT POSITION	Rear-facing ONLY. Reclining 45 degrees. Back seat & middle.	Forward-facing. Fully upright. Back seat/middle if possible.	Forward-facing. Fully upright. Back seat/middle if possible.
<u>ALWAYS</u> MAKE SURE:	Harness straps at or below shoulders & SNUG. Chest clip used at armpit level. Listen for clasps to click.	Harness straps at or above shoulders & SNUG. Chest clip used at armpit level.	Both lap & shoulder belts in correct positions & SNUG. Use built-in shoulder belt guides.
<u>WARNING</u>	NEVER put in front of active airbag. Strap before you wrap! Newborns need padded support until harness fits (head/trunk/crotch) snug.	NEVER put close to active airbag. NEVER allow kids to share safety seats or seat belts.	ALL kids under 13 should ride in back seats. Check on kids who put themselves in seats.

Resources: SafetyBeltSafe USA: www.carseat.org or 310-222-6860.

American Academy of Pediatrics: www.aap.org or 888-227-5409.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.dot.gov or 888-327-4236.

Riley Children's Hospital: www.rileyhospital.org/kids1st or 800-248-1199.

Information consistent with *Caring for Our Children* 2002: <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>